

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to issuance of a first Office Action, the Applicant requests entry of this Preliminary Amendment which adds claims directed to features of the present invention which were not included as part of the originally submitted claims but which are fully supported by the specification. For convenience purposes in claim numbering, original Claim 5 has been cancelled and rewritten as new Claim 34.

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made."

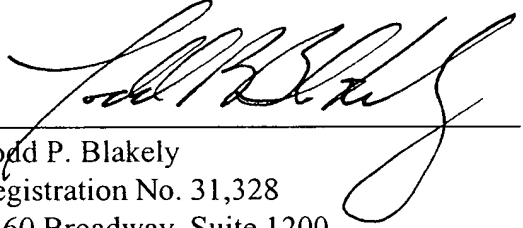
Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

1. (Amended) In a [local area] computer network [attached to a larger network],
a method for maintaining an acceptable use policy comprising:
 - a. monitoring network communications [of users comprising the local
area network];
 - 5 b. storing at least some of said communications;
 - [b]c. testing the stored communication for the presence of at least one
preselected criterion[a];
 - [c]d. deleting the communication if the presence of said at least one
preselected criterion[a] is not determined;
 - 10 [d]e. storing the communication if the presence of said at least one
preselected criterion[a] is determined.
2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the [said] preselected criterion[a]
comprises one or more subject matter categories[of regular expressions].
3. (Amended) The method of claim [3] 2, wherein at least some of said subject
matter categories comprise regular expressions[are weighted].
4. (Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said regular expressions are
weighted[with either positive or negative values].
5. Cancel.
6. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the preselected criterion is weighted.

7. (New) The method of claim 4, wherein said regular expressions are weighted with either positive or negative values.
8. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein regular expressions within a subject matter category having a negative value are before regular expressions having a positive value.
9. (New) The method of claim 4, further comprising prioritizing the order in which regular expressions within a subject matter category are tested.
10. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein said prioritizing reduces the likelihood of false hits.
11. (New) The method of claim 1, where the computer network is a TCP/IP network.
12. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the computer network is a wide area network.
13. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the computer network is a local area network.
14. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the presence of the preselected criterion in at least one of said categories comprises a match in a plurality of categories.
15. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein said subject matter categories comprise key words.
16. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein at least some of said key words are defined by the user.

17. (New) The method of claim 2, further comprising assigning a threshold value to each subject matter category.
18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein at least some of said subject matter categories comprise one or more predetermined expressions.
19. (New) The method of claim 18, further comprising assigning a value to said predetermined expressions.
20. (New) The method of claim 19, further comprising summing the values of said predetermined expressions.
21. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein said communication is further stored if the sum of the values of said predetermined expressions comprising a subject matter category equal or exceed the threshold value assigned to said subject matter category.
22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the threshold value of at least one subject matter category comprises equaling or exceeding the threshold value in a plurality of subject matter categories.
23. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said threshold values assigned to said subject matter categories are variable.
24. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein said subject matter categories have a hierarchical relationship.
25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said hierarchical relationship comprises defining the threshold value for at least one subject matter category as the presence of predetermined expressions in a plurality of other subject matter categories.

26. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said hierarchical relationship comprises defining the threshold value for at least one subject matter category as matching or exceeding the threshold value assigned to a plurality of other subject matter categories.

27. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising outputting a report relating to the presence of said at least one preselected criterion.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said report identifies individuals whose use of the computer network included communications which matched preselected criterion.

29. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said report identifies network addresses where communications were received or originated that included matched preselected criterion.

30. (New) The method of claim 2, further comprising outputting a report relating to the presence of preselected criterion, wherein said report identifies the number of matches in a category.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein said report is in a graphical format.

32. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said report provides the text of all communications that match said preselected criterion.

33. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said report is in a human readable format.

34. (New) A method for monitoring and maintaining an acceptable use policy for computer network usage comprising:

a. capturing data on a network;

- b. removing data content that does not contain language elements;
- c. testing the remaining content for the presence of predetermined expressions;
- d. maintaining a sum of values associated with said predetermined expressions found within at least one category;
- e. storing the remaining data if the sum of values associated with said predetermined expressions within a category meets or exceeds a threshold value.
- 5 35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein said computer network is a wide area network.
36. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein said computer network is a local area network.
37. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein said computer network is a TCP/IP area network.
38. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein said expressions are weighted.
39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein said expressions are weighted with either positive or negative values.
40. (New) The method of claim 39, further comprising prioritizing the order in which regular expressions within a subject matter category are tested.
41. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the negative valued regular expressions are tested first.
42. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein said negative and positive valued regular expressions are separately tested in the order of largest value to smallest value.

43. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the order of said prioritizing is determined based upon reducing the likelihood of false hits.

44. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein said expressions include regular expressions.

45. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the threshold value for at least one category comprises meeting or exceeding the threshold value for a plurality of other categories.

46. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the threshold value of at least one category comprises meeting or exceeding the threshold value for at least one other category and not meeting or exceeding the threshold value for at least another category.

47. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein said threshold value for a category is variable.

48. (New) The method of claim 34, further comprising outputting a report relating to the presence of predetermined expressions.

49. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein said report identifies individuals whose use of the computer network included communications which matched predetermined expressions.

50. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein said report identifies network addresses where communications were received or originated that included matched predetermined expressions.

51. (New) The method of claim 34, further comprising outputting a report relating to the presence of predetermined expressions, wherein said report identifies the number of matches in a category.

52. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein said report is in a graphical format.

53. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein said report provides the text of all communications that match said predetermined expressions.

54. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein said report is in a human readable format.

55. (New) A method for monitoring and maintaining an acceptable use policy for computer network usage comprising:

a. capturing data on a network;

b. removing data content that does not contain language elements;

5 c. defining categories with weighted predetermined expressions;

c. testing the remaining content for the presence of predetermined expressions;

d. maintaining a sum of values associated with said predetermined expressions found within each category;

10 e. storing the remaining data if the sum of values associated with said predetermined expressions present within a category exceeds a threshold value.

56. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said remaining data is stored only if the sum of predetermined expressions exceeds the threshold value in a plurality of categories.

57. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein the threshold value for a category is defined as the presence of no predetermined expressions.

58. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said computer network is a wide area network.

59. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said computer network is a local area network.

60. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said computer network is a TCP/IP area network.

61. (New) The method of claim 55, further comprising outputting a report relating to the presence of predetermined expressions whose sum meets or exceeds the threshold value of a category.

62. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said report identifies individuals whose use of the computer network included communications which contained predetermined expressions whose sum matched or exceeded the threshold value of at least one category.

63. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said report identifies network addresses where communications were received or originated that included predetermined expressions whose sum matched or exceeded the threshold value of at least one category.

64. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein said reports are in a graphical format.